(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/043994 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07K 7/23, 19/00, A61K 38/09, A61P 5/02, 15/00, 35/00
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2003/005008

(22) International Filing Date:

7 November 2003 (07.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

0226179.0

9 November 2002 (09.11.2002) GE

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

 without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A RETRO-INVERSO GONADOTROPIN-RELEASING HORMONE PEPTIDE AND VACCINE COMPOSITION

(57) Abstract: The invention describes a retro-inverso (RI) gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) peptide which is capable of eliciting an immune response directed against GnRH, the peptide having the amino acid sequence GPRLGYSWHX, wherein the amino acids are D-amino acids and X is any amino acid. More particularly, X is E, Q, P or G, and even more particularly, X is E or Q. Thus, a preferred amino acid sequence for the peptide is GPRLGYSWHE. The peptide may optionally include one or more additional D-amino acids at its N- or C-terminus, for example a cysteine residue or a series of linker amino acids, such as a plurality of glycine amino acid residues. Thus, a second preferred amino acid sequence for the peptide is GPRLGYSWHEC, which includes a cysteine residue at the C-terminus for conjugation purposes. The invention also describes a vaccine composition for use in controlling fertility, heat, contraception and/or treating sex hormone-related diseases, and a method for controlling and or treating fertility and sex hormone-related diseases.

